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# AMAA News

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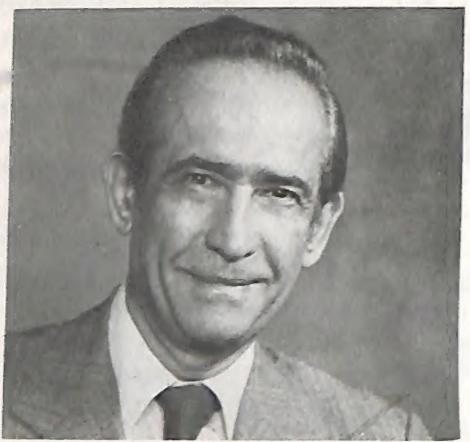
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IN MEMORIAM  
VAHE S. ROUBIAN  
1912 - 1984

## DAYS TO REMEMBER



G. H. Chopourian

The Scriptures abound in stories of kings whose bad judgment caused the fall of their empires and other leaders whose vision, fortified life.

Between April and July, seven events touch our lives deeply—The Armenian Genocide, Mothers' Day, Memorial Day and D-Day, Fathers' Day, Independence Day and the Armenian Evangelical Movement.

Because the AMAA NEWS is published bi-monthly (once every two months) the editors are unable to deal fully with the seven major events that occur inside three months and feel frustrated as a result. There is so much to say about them!

### **The Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day**

The Armenian Community's various modes of response to the first Genocide of the 20th Century stretches from "do nothing" to "kill Turkish Ambassadors". The interposing views are to the effect of (1) "forgiving and forgetting," (2) "forgiving but remembering for the good of humanity," (3) "using the processes available to bring the subject to the full consciousness of the nations of the world," (4) "forcing the hand of the U.S. Congress to state the event is historically valid in light of the evidences in the archives of the nations of the world."

Sin is sin, and bad judgment is bad judgment! Their practice inevitably leads to damaging results. Our community

response should eliminate terrorism, but intensify promotional and procedural methods. Congressman Pashaian's article featured in the April NEWS, emphasizing dialogue with the Turks, is an honorable road to pursue for the Scriptures admonish that he who "sinnest against me wrongeth his own soul."

### **Mothers' and Fathers' Day**

The words and thoughts that come alive during observation of these events carry an aura of beauty, splendor and grandeur. Honor, respect, loving and caring are the qualities attributed to Mom and Dad. And for the most part the idealistic attributes fit.

In another sense, the assumptions belie reality. The single-parent family concept is increasing, so is the divorce rate; the delineation of authority in the home as a reference point is decreasing, so is the emphasis on the importance of conduct and character.

Research on the causes go on, without much good resulting. Parents continue to believe their children should be in business or vocations that give the best remuneration and are unhappy if their choices will keep them in the lower financial strata, when they should realize the children's happiness is in their commitment to fulfilling causes. Samuel's parents are in complete agreement over a vocation for their son which might be seen as ridiculously misconceived. They committed Samuel to God at a tender age. Here's how the conversation went:

"And the man El Kanah and all his house went up to offer to the Lord the Yearly Sacrifice, and to pay his vow. But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband 'As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, that he may appear in the presence of the Lord, and abide there forever!' El Kanah her husband said to her, 'Do what seems best to you, wait until you have weaned him; only, may the Lord establish his word!'

When parents cooperatively offer the Christian vocations as options for their children's vocational choices, we can help

—G. H. Chopourian

turn around the problems our nation faces into solutions.

### **Memorial Day & D-Day**

The last Monday of May and the first week of June call us to remember our dead of the first and second World Wars. What an immense waste of manpower, brainpower and heartpower! Youth among whom we might have had geniuses perhaps to solve our cancer problems and many other diseases, are buried and wasted. Then we think of the suffering of the mothers, fathers, brothers and sisters mourning their loved ones. The tears that fell would fill a lake. Then, we remember the maimed, the crippled and the handicapped by the hundreds and thousands. We think of their struggles to make of themselves useful persons.

What can we say in times of remembrance of these things? What can we say to parents still bitter? What can we say for those suffering the consequences of wars? Well, we can share their grief, we can say we feel for them. We can say "We'll see you through."

During the height of the Civil War, the President of the United States came upon a young soldier in a hospital who was near death. The President, moved, asked if there was anything he could do for him. The young soldier asked if he could write a letter for him to his mother. The President agreed, completed the arduous task and stretched the letter for the boy to sign. After signing it, with difficulty, he said, "Please sign your name, too. I would like her to know how kind you have been." "What?" said the lad on seeing the signature. "You are the President? I wouldn't have asked if I had known."

President Lincoln reassured him it was alright and then asked, "Now, is there anything else I can do—anything at all?" "Oh, sir, I know I cannot last long. If you would see me through." Taking the boy in his arms, he held his pain-racked body.

Hours passed and the President of the United States stayed on until the break  
(Cont. on page 4)

## IN MEMORY OF AMAA PAST PRESIDENT VAHE S. ROUBIAN

19 OCT 2012

Dr. Roubian, the son of Dr. and Mrs. Stephen Roubian and grandson of Rev. Hagop Koumrian, was born in Aleppo, Syria in 1912 and entered his eternal rest on July 20, 1984 of a massive heart attack. Valiant efforts by Hospital Personnel failed to save him.

Dr. Roubian expanded a great amount of energy on behalf of the AMAA. There was hardly anything he would not undertake to strengthen the resources of the Association. The members of the current Board are deeply saddened by his departure and feel a great loss.

Dr. Roubian received his early education in mission schools, and received the degree of DDS from the American University of Beirut. In 1937, he adopted the United States as his country and began the practice of dentistry. He made numerous contributions to the profession and holds two U.S. patents.

Dr. Roubian is "part and parcel" of the Christian Church, having an almost unbroken church attendance since his childhood. As a member of the Manhasset Congregational Church, he served two

years on the Board of Benevolence. He kept close contact with Armenian Evangelical Ministers and our Evangelical Churches. He never ignored appeals from pastors, churches and Unions for their construction, cultural, social and spiritual programs. It was a stewardship practice he had picked from his parents and in all these, his intelligent and charming wife participated happily and willingly.

In addition to his church interest and professional practice Vahe was also active in many community projects such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, P.T.A. and others.

He served as President of the Queens Chapter of AGBU for three terms and as Commander of The Knights of Vartan of Etchmiatzin Lodge. In 1952, Dr. Roubian authored a publication, "Who's Who Among the Armenian-Americans".

He joined the Richmond Hill-Kew-Forest Kiwanis Club in 1945 serving almost all its committees, always creating and also helping others to acquire and maintain an active interest in Kiwanis. He held local, state and international offices



Vahe S. Roubian

and in 1953, and again in 1969, he served as President. His terms of office were outstanding in the Club's 45-year history, filled with many innovations and achievements. During his term of office as Secretary, the Club Bulletin won the First Award in the State of New York. Of his 28 years of Kiwanis membership, he boasts 27 years of perfect attendance.

Dr. Roubian served on the Board of Directors of the AMAA from 1959 to

### *The Inspirational Corner*

## HOW TO BE PROUD OF BEING AN ARMENIAN

Most of us take it for granted that being an Armenian is equal to having accomplished something great. Yes, our people are great, and we have a great culture and a heritage, but the question is, what are we contributing to keep it great, and pass on to coming generation the torch of faith that has been the catalyst and binder that has kept our people together through wars, massacres, and plunders by the godless people that have taken over our homeland?

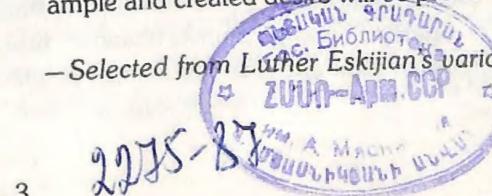
Perhaps the greatest factor that has kept us together has been the Church. It has been the foundation of the family life, the link between the people and the spiritual strength that has given the hope with which to continue through all odds and difficulties.

Now we find ourselves complacent about the values that have meant so much, and substitute material things for the spiritual, thereby weakening the fabric that hold us together. We have failed to set the example to our children in tutoring them in the rich history and culture of our people. Many of our homes have nothing in way of the books, music, artifacts, numismatics of our culture, all of which is available without much searching. If we, the adults fail our children, whom do we expect to fulfill our position? The church that we hardly

support? An Armenian school? Yes, some of these may help, but the responsibility of creating within our children, the love and knowledge of our rich culture is up to the parents.

Do we realize that some of the finest books exist on Armenian Artifacts, Church Architecture, Numismatics, Philately, Costumes, ancient maps, etc., and yet how many Armenian families have taken the time and the money to purchase some of these priceless items? So many Armenian ancient coins are going begging because there are no buyers. Maps that are from a hundred to five hundred years old, showing Armenia where Turkey has since occupied, are being sold to Odars, because the Armenian people are not interested. Many of our national organizations have long lists of historical Armenian books, and yet very few people have them in their homes. These are true tests of just how interested one is in being an Armenian. And it is hoped that this little presentation will assist some families to procure the essence of our culture and pass it on to the coming generations, so that our children by example and created desire will be proud of being an Armenian

—Selected from Luther Eskijian's various articles in possession of the AMAA.



**ERRATUM:** The date that appeared at the bottom of Puzant Kalfayan's picture on the cover of the last issue of the AMAA NEWS (June 1984) was incorrectly printed 1924-1959. The correct years are 1913-1959. We regret the misprint.

1969, being its President for a two-year term (1966-1968). During his Presidency, he made many contributions to the AMAA among which were the creation of several new committees, the most important of which were the "Fiftieth Anniversary Campaign" and the "Adopt a Foreign Child Abroad" tuition scholarship program specially geared to Kiwanis Club of which 200 adopted 250 children's tuition each for a total running over 3,000.

In 1944, Dr. Roubian married Genevieve Mangurian, a native of New Hampshire and a graduate of the University of that state. They were blessed with three sons: Capt. Armen, a Doctor in the Dental Corp. at the U.S. Air Force; Robert, graduate from the Architectural Department of Pratt Institute; and Paul, graduate of Hahnemann Medical School, now doing residency at Nassau Hospital in Mineola, L.I. which is a teaching unit of the Stony Brook University Teaching Hospital.

The Executive Director of the AMAA, Dr. G.H. Choupourian, was requested to give a 5-minute testimonial at the Memorial service held for Vahe at the Congregational Church of Manhasset on Sunday, July 29. Speaking on behalf of the AMAA Board of Directors, officers and staff he extended the sympathies of all and wished the family peace and gratification because of the quality life that Vahe had led. He emphasised that Vahe was a reservoir of energy, an active person laboring hard and also inspiring and encouraging others to do the same. He challenged Members and the general public with the question, "Have you considered what you can do for the AMAA?"

The family of Dr. Roubian has requested that gifts in lieu of flower be kindly forwarded to AMAA and/or Kiwanis International.

#### DAYS TO REMEMBER

(Cont. from page 2)

of day when the young man died in Lincoln's arms. What can we say to those who are strongly preoccupied by the unanswerable question "Why"? Just this: "With our prayers and love 'We'll see you through' your torturing anxieties. Peace!"

#### Independence Day

One of the ancient Greek philosophers explained that no government was good and perfect but the best of all among them was the democratic government. There are many reasons in the minds of people why they celebrate the American Independence Day.

Chauvinism stands out strongly in the minds of some, strong nationalism runs in the veins of others, partisanship is evidenced in most, but fraternal true

Dr. Roubian's vigor and attentiveness to details of work, his vision and creativity are recognized and admired by all who know him well.

In the August 4 Meeting of the AMAA Board of Directors, the following resolution was adopted in memory of Dr. Roubian:

"Whereas Dr. Vahe Roubian has served the AMAA, Inc. in various capacities through many years

as a generous contributing member; as Chairman of various important committees;

as Chairman of Haigazian College Eastern Committee;

and as President for 2 terms, from 1966 to 1968, on this first Board of Directors' meeting (held on August 4, 1984) since his sudden passing away on July 20, 1984, we, members of the Board of Directors, thank God for his life and service and express our deep appreciation for Dr. Roubian's great contribution to this Association and its various projects, and express our heartfelt sympathies to his wife, Genevieve; sons, Dr. Armen, Mr. Robert and Dr. Paul, and wish them Divine consolation and comfort during their bereavement."

The family of Dr. Roubian has requested that gifts in lieu of flower be kindly forwarded to AMAA and/or Kiwanis International.

patriotism stands out more strongly and cherishes the great values that America stands for. America stands for five things in the least: justice, equality, freedom, human rights and usefulness to its own people as well as to the rest of the world. True, it looks upon its interest first but isn't that also what a father and mother do—consider the interest of the family as a priority? America still stands for the greatest constructive values. God bless America.

#### Armenian Evangelical Movement

On July 1, 1846, 138 years ago, a strong spiritual revival occurred in the life of our Armenian people in Cilician Armenia. Starting in Istanbul with the first establishment of the Reformed Church as the "Hayasdanatz Avedaranagan Yegeghetzi" with a membership of 37 men and 3 women, the Movement spread all over Cilician Armenia and east to the border of Armenia. Unusual things happened. Evangelicals felt ignorant Armenians could not be good Christians so institutions of learning were founded. Elementary and High schools, Colleges and Seminaries were established. The numbers of the schools were unexpectedly large and the 13 Colleges and Seminaries were proportionately very high for a population of 2.5 million Armenians.

Unfortunately, the tempo of growth slowed down with the massacres of 1915-1918, and the work in Cilicia was almost completely stopped as a result of the departure of Armenians from Cilicia to many parts of the world.

But the Movement continues to be a source of challenge and inspiration to our Armenian people because it stands for salvation in Christ and Christian conduct dictated by the teachings of the Scriptures. The Movement also stands for human freedom and rejects that salvation can be achieved by human mediation; it is through belief in the mediation of Jesus Christ, the Lord of life, that salvation is earned. A believer is a priest unto himself!

As a Christian Missionary Institution, we in the AMAA pray that we may continue to be a tough people in spirit to overcome tragedies and also to use them as ladders to move up to greater achievements and successes. So we believe our nation must desire prayerfully.

## REFLECTIONS OF MUSA DAGH AND THE DEPORTATIONS

— A. Theodore Bagdikian, Jr.



A scene from the rescue operation that saved the Armenians of Musa Dagh.

their proposed honorable stand on the mountain.

The truth of the matter is completely

contrary to this depiction and the reader must be told that Reverend Nokhoudian made both an informed and intelligent judgment when he chose the deportation march instead of the mountain... a decision based on several significant considerations:

1. He had first-hand knowledge that to select the mountain—as an alternative to complying with the deportation order—was to select certain death. You see, he had visited the mountain to assess strategic possibilities. Searching diligently for even a remote avenue of escape there, he found none, noting that the sheer cliffs descending to the ocean would be at their backs as the Turks advanced from the front. Therefore, he knew that if there was to be even a glimmer of hope for survival, it could only be obtained through the march into exile. By exercising that option he felt, too, that they would be

buying time, time in which some might escape from the convoy, time in which a miracle might occur, time in which America or Britain could intervene and save them.

Believe me, he was under no illusion regarding the peril in which he would be placing himself and his flock by choosing the deportation.

2. Focusing on yet another aspect of survival on the mountain top, he then pondered the matter of food supplies, calculating that with more than 6300 people to feed daily (assuming everyone went to the mountain), rations could only last 25 days at most, after which time they would confront another specter: death by starvation.
3. He was adamantly opposed to a mandate issued by the mountain strategists which called for the shooting of women and children as a final, merciful act just prior to annihilation by the Turks. The prospect of having to shoot his own wife was patently intolerable to him as a committed Chris-

## THE SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE AEUNA



Participants in the Seventh General Assembly.

in the Banquet program was AMAA President, Dr. Bezirganian who presented a moving personal testimony regarding the blessings received from the Missionary work of the Association.

The Armenian Evangelical Youth Fellowship Convention was held concurrently with the AEUNA Assembly. The Convention had a large representation of young people who re-elected Mr. Steve Kradjian of Los Angeles as President of the AEYF.

The Seventh Assembly was closed on Sunday, July 1 by an inspiring Worship service at which time the following were installed as the newly-elected officers of the AEUNA:

The Rev. Dr. Peter Doghramji, Moderator  
Dr. Sarkis Kalfayan, Vice Moderator  
Mrs. Edward Tovmassian, Secretary  
Mr. Nerses Aynilian, Treasurer  
The Rev. Karl Avakian, Chairman,

Armenian Heritage Committee  
The Rev. John Mokkosian, Chairman,  
Home Missions Committee

The Rev. Bernard Guekguezian,  
Chairman, Ministry Committee

Mr. George Beylerian, Chairman,  
Stewardship Committee

The Rev. Roger Minassian, Chairman,  
Youth Ministry Committee

The Rev. H. Missirlian, Minister to Union

Hearty congratulations to the new leadership of AEUNA and prayerful best wishes for a fruitful ministry for the glory of God and His Kingdom.

tian because it violated one of the Ten Commandments—"Thou Shalt Not Kill"—and he knew there was no exception to this principle, including suicide. Finally, but equally important, was the matter of his will to live. Consider, if you will, his personal circumstances at the time of these events: His career in the ministry was progressing nicely, he had just gotten married (albeit on the very day the telegram arrived announcing the deportation!), he was facing a potentially bright future in which he might see many of his dreams, fulfilled. . . not the least of which was heirs to perpetuate his name and proud race. He had great reason to opt for living and his will to live was as unshakable as his belief that their ultimate deliverance from this trial would manifest itself somehow through the deportation at the hand of the Lord.

As far as he was concerned, the people who went to the mountain were confirming a date with death; he, on the other hand, would risk the deportation.

I ask you: Do the preceding thoughts sound like the products of an imbecilic mind? . . or those of a coward?

It is most unfortunate that the producers of this film chose not to present the truth of my uncle's character and activities which, while few, were mentioned in the book. For example, on page 276 it is written, "Pastor Nokhoudian, whose mildness and Christian spirit of obedience had caused many to mistake him for a coward, revealed his heroism."

One of the most blatantly fraudulent representations occurs on page 214 of the book where it states, "The old pastor bowed his head. . . , again with reference to my uncle. What the reader may not know is that Reverend Nokhoudian was born on April 12, 1883 and, therefore, at the time of deportation, 1915, was only 32 years old. . . hardly an age which could be characterized as "old"!

On page 72, in explanation of my uncle's pastorate in Bitias, the author commits another falsehood to print: ". . .Nokhoudian had been such an orphan, sent by these compassionate mission-folk to Dorpat in East Germany to study theology."

In truth my uncle had attended seminary, but he was enrolled as a student in the Marash Theological

Seminary. In further point of fact, the first time he ever left the Middle East was the time when he emigrated to the United States with his family in the late 1920s. . . and he never once set foot on German soil.

Finally, the two most important corrections with regard to the fate of my uncle and his group on the deportation.

On page 711 of the book the author presents the reader with a letter from my uncle to Ter Haigasun in which he recounts the mass slaughter of the Musa Dagh exiles, including the death of his wife.

The first truth of the matter is that my Aunt Siranoush is this very day alive and residing in the City of Albany, New York, should anyone care to investigate my claim for its accuracy.

Secondly, at a way station where the convoy of more than 2000 Armenians who accompanied my uncle on the deportation was being separated into groups for the final journey to Deir el-Zor and the Syrian Desert, the name of the station's Turkish commander was revealed.

Much to my uncle's delight, he realized this Turk was a man he had befriended in years past. Seizing the opportunity, he requested and was granted an audience with the leader. They embraced in the privacy of headquarters and, subsequent to a long conversation, the commander issued an order that would send the convoy instead to Hama under armed guard. Thus my uncle and his loyal following survived the deportation.

It is interesting to note further that considering the number of times Mr. Werfel mentions the City of Zeitun in his novel, he never once bothers to explain that Pastor Nokhoudian was born and raised there. Had he done so he never would have been able to ascribe any act of cowardice to my uncle because all Zeituntzis were known to be warriors!

By way of further demonstration of Pastor Nokhoudian's cleverness and bravery, here is an additional recollection:

In order to buy extra preparation time for their defense of Musa Dagh, the Council of Leadership approached my uncle with a request for assistance. They asked if he would trick the Turks into believing that approximately 4000 villagers had already left their homes, fleeing into exile before the appointed time,

risk. He agreed to participate because to be martyred for the sake of his Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, was one of his strongest beliefs as a Christian and therefore he was unaframed and unconcerned with sacrificing his life should the deception be discovered. He knew he would have to give the acting performance of his life in order to convince the Turks that such an incredibly large number of Armenians acted on a decision of voluntary exile while some 2000 remained behind, obediently awaiting the sepihs and ultimate deportation.

When it came time to act out his deception for the Turks, he was able to call upon those wonderful oratorical skills which had been developing through his ministry. To insure the success of his mission, he was able to improvise most cleverly in this way:

While the Mudir listened suspiciously to his explanatory recitation, my uncle called Aunt Siranoush aside to assist with the ruse. Earlier in the day she had inadvertently cut her wrist while packing. In Armenian he whispered to her, "Scream when I grab your arm." He then gripped her wrist, showed the cut to the surprised Turk and said, "See, my own wife was going to kill herself because she was so terrified of the sepihs who are coming." The official, most uncomfortable with this sudden burst of hysteria from my aunt, departed hastily, calling out instructions for assembling the exile convoy as he fled through the door.

If for no other reason but that which has just been described my uncle should have been considered the hero of Musa Dagh rather than the coward he was purported to be in the film. Just consider for a moment how greatly altered Armenian history would have been had the Mudir not believed uncle's story. They would have tortured him and as many Armenians as were necessary to discover the truth about those who had escaped to the mountain.

So, at the time of the Musa Dagh retreat not one person could have realized that in Pastor Nokhoudian's decision their own survival was at once predestined!

As a final piece of evidence which will serve to authenticate my uncle's story. I offer the following:

In the early 1950s while attending college in Manhattan, I made the chance ac-

quaintance of a Frenchman named Nicky who owned a business near my apartment. Quite often I would drop in for coffee and conversation with he and his wife.

On one such occasion he inquired as to my ethnic background. When I explained that I was of Armenian descent, he smiled and said, "That reminds me of the Armenians on Musa Dagh. Do you know about that?" I responded, "Yes, but how do you know about that?"

He then proceeded to explain that he had been a sailor in the French Navy during World War I and had served on the warship GUICHEN when it rescued the surviving Armenians from Musa Dagh. Continuing with a description of the survivors' pathetic condition due to the famine they experienced, he said, "Had our ship arrived only a day or two later we would have found they had all perished."

When I told him that my uncle was the pastor who had chosen to take his group on the deportation as an alternative to the mountain because he felt it offered a greater chance for survival, Nicky said, "Yes, I know. I heard many of the Armenians on our ship say that if this minister had not taken his people on the march, they all would have starved to death on the mountain because food supplies were barely adequate for themselves."

It is difficult for me to believe that the producers of this film did not intentionally smear the memory of two great Armenian heroes solely because they were Protestant clergymen . . . and I am referring to The Reverends Dicran Antreassian and Haroutune Nokhoudian who, each in his own unique manner, was responsible for saving thousands of lives at Musa Dagh and on the Deparation.

I consider it a terrible tragedy that my late uncle, a kind man, a courageous, responsible Christian leader, must remain the most maligned, unsung hero of The Forty Days of Musa Dagh . . . in print and now on screen. His widow and family have suffered this injustice far too long already.

The time has come for the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America (AEUNA) to speak out on this abomination. High Investment Films, Inc. must be held accountable for its irresponsibility in presenting this cinematic material. A public apology is called for . . . at the very least!

THE SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
OF THE AEUNA

# THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORTS

## THE PLIGHT OF KCHAG

Kchag, The Christian Endeavor Summer Camp in Lebanon, was one of the most damaged Armenian Evangelical Institutions during the latest round of violence in Lebanon. In the past two years, the Camp which is located on the slopes of the Beit Mary hill about seven miles east of Beirut, was successively occupied by Phalangist militiamen, Syrian Army units, The Lebanese Army and Israeli invaders. Each occupant has left its own particular mark on the buildings and the landscape of the Camp. The pictures on this page depict the damages of the latest fighting in the area. Meguerditch Melkonian, the newly appointed Christian Endeavor Youth Director in Lebanon, writes of shattered windows, blown out doors, looted storehouses, damaged



buildings, disrupted power lines and leaking water pipes . . . and material damage of close to \$20,000. On behalf of all the Youth Groups in Lebanon, Mr. Melkonian also makes a touching appeal for special relief for Kchag, the Youth Center of the Armenian Evangelical Community in Lebanon.

The AMAA, in accordance with a policy established by a Board of Directors' resolution in 1975, refuses to provide financial assistance for construction or expansion projects in Lebanon considering it injudicious to spend money on brick and mortar before Lebanon's problem is resolved. Yet, if we want to see our undernourished children and Christian Endeavor Youth receive physical and

religious nurture at Summer Camp programs, rooms and facilities of Kchag have to be repaired and at least put in usable condition. The AMAA has responded to the appeal for Kchag by channeling relief contributions to the C.E. Executive Committee to encourage continuation of life-giving programs because the spiritual and physical nurture of our children and youth is the paramount concern of the AMAA. AMAA is interested not in buildings, but in precious young souls who need our compassion, prayer and support.

We believe you will not only help, but will RUSH your gift for the lofty purpose of serving the needs of youth who are the promise of our future.

## DR. DALE BISHOP BRIEFS AMAA BOARD ON LEBANON

At the invitation of the President of the AMAA, Dr. George Bezirgarian, Dr. Dale Bishop, Middle East Secretary of the United Church Board for World Ministries, attended the June 9 Board of Directors' Meeting of the Association and presented an update on Lebanon. Dr. Bishop, who had just returned from an extensive field trip to the Middle East, characterized his visits to Beirut four times in the past six months as "a study in deterioration." Dr. Bishop's enlightening update was summarised and recorded in the minutes of the Board meeting by the Recording Secretary, Mrs. Marie Nahigian. Excerpts from Mrs. Nahigian's recording read: "Dr. Bishop said at first, there was still some hope—there was a 'cease-fire' announcement, but problems were brewing. The cease-fire crumbled and in February, rebellion broke out. West Beirut was under the control of militias, and there was a marked deterioration in Ras Beirut. A flood of refugees entered the area. A whole area in the form of an arc was laid to waste, and there has been sporadic shelling ever since. There are about 20,000 refugees, many of whom are living in churches, movie theaters, parking lots, etc., wherever they can find space."

"Dr. Bishop reflected that the reason for the fighting has been lost and that the leadership has failed the Lebanese people. A woman planned a Peace March in May, but shelling took place and she became disillusioned. A whole generation has been brought up on violence. He commended institutions, such as the AUB, Haigazian College as well as certain individuals, for being so courageous in the face of all this tragedy.

"Near East School of Theology is at the most critical point in its history. Its physical environment is deteriorating, as political infighting continues. As for the Armenian Evangelical community in Lebanon, Dr. Bishop said that by its very presence it is making a contribution and sees it as 'a community in mission' and that we should support them by all means.

"He also visited Syria and Turkey. He



Dr. Dale Bishop briefing AMAA Board on Lebanon.

did not meet the Armenian Evangelical leadership in Turkey, but has heard good reports about the work of Missak Gunay and Hrant Dink. The general situation for Armenians in Turkey is better, with those living in Istanbul as being better off. About 125 children will be taught at the Touzla Camp this summer."

Since Dr. Bishop's reporting, new and hopeful developments have emerged in Lebanon. Recent reports reveal the clearing of barricades and militia checkpoints along the Green Line; the reopening of the main arteries linking East and West Beirut; the entry of Lebanese Army units into the Western sector of the city; the gradual consolidation of the Lebanese Government under Prime Minister Rashid Karami. Just the same, many observers see the status of Armenians in worse light than ever. Armed robberies of Armenians in what was West Beirut have increased from recent tragedies brought to our attention. Will the Lebanese come to their senses this time and sincerely try to put an end to their own suffering? Will the years of rebellion and terror practised by youth terminate? We continue to hope and pray that this time they will not want to see the hope of millions of innocent people dissipate in the smoke of a Lebanon burning in yet another hell of violence.

## BENJAMIN WEIR'S WHEREABOUTS STILL UNKNOWN

The whereabouts of the Reverend Benjamin Weir, a Presbyterian Missionary kidnapped in Beirut, Lebanon, is still unknown. Reverend Weir was kidnapped on May 8 as he and his wife Carol were

leaving their apartment building in West Beirut. Reverend Weir worked with the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon and served on the Boards of several institutions related to the Armenian Evangelical Community, such as the Jinishian Memorial Program (JMP) and the Near East School of Theology (NEST). His kidnapping occurred on his way to a meeting of the Board of Managers of NEST.

In a recent letter addressed to Christian friends, Mrs. Weir, who teaches Christian Education at the NEST, writes, "Pray with us that contacts with U.S. Government Officials as well as personal contacts here in Lebanon will be fruitful.... Those who hold Ben and the other Americans have been radicalized because of their own sufferings. Let us work and pray for a just and peaceful resolution for all in the conflicts of the Middle East."

We request that AMAA members and friends join us in praying for the quick release and safe return of Reverend Weir to his family and ministry.

## SAVED TO SAVE OTHERS

Do you remember young Serop Seropian in whose kidney transplant surgery expenses you participated? The expenses were immense, but are comparatively nothing when matched to the valuable service young Serop is rendering currently.



Serop Seropian (first right) and his band.

The following report should cause you to rejoice:

"Serop is happy, particularly because he is totally committed to the religious nurture of adolescents and youth. He is the leader of the Chanasser and

Badaniatz organizations and has been the cause of the conversion of quite a few persons. We praise the Lord. Late-ly he found a few benefactors with whose contributions a piano, drums, guitar, saxophone, trumpet and organ were bought to form an orchestra. On many occasions, as guitarist and director, Serop performs for community and school functions."

"Cast your bread upon the waters," challenges the Bible, "and it shall come back unto you." Your benevolence, as bread cast upon the water, has come back to enrich our schools and communities.

Are you encouraged to be venturesome in your outreach?

We hope so.

## HAIGAZIAN COLLEGE PROMOTED BY AUXILIARIES

The Haigazian College Women's Auxiliaries of Los Angeles, Fresno and New York/New Jersey are among the most active Haigazian College support groups. Through meetings, benefit luncheons and other activities, these groups promote the College and raise funds for its scholarship and education programs.

Among this year's successful activities of the Women's Auxiliary of Los Angeles, Mrs. Mary Kassabian, Chairperson, was a Salad Bar and Musicale held on May 17 at the home of Mr. & Mrs. George Gagatourian of Anaheim, CA. Mrs. Alice Deukmejian, mother of the California Governor, George Deukmejian, was the honored guest at the Luncheon at which the works of Gomidas were highlighted by soprano Elise Tashjian and soloist Veronique Bagatourian, accompanied by Jirair Satamian.

The most recent activity of the Women's Auxiliary of Fresno, Mrs. Victoria Mooradian, Chairperson, was a Barbeque Dinner held on Saturday, August 4, at the home of Mr. & Mrs. George Bagdasarian of Fresno, CA. The successful Dinner Party, which was attended by close to three hundred Haigazian College friends from the Fresno area, was dedicated to the memory of the late philanthropist Leon Peters. Peters, who was one of the most active members of

# THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORTS

the Board of Trustees of the College, strongly believed in the mission of the College and generously contributed to its educational programs. Mrs. Maggie Matossian of Beirut, Lebanon, Chairperson of the Lebanon based Board of Managers of the College, was among the special guests at the dinner. Mrs. Matossian presented an update on the life and work of the College and thanked the members of the Women's Auxiliary for their faithful support. Mrs. Matossian will present a detailed report at a joint meeting of the Board of Managers and Board of Trustees of the College to be held on September 6 in Los Angeles. The joint meeting, which will be also attended by the Rev. Hovhannes Karjian, Moderator of the Union of the Armenian Evang'l Churches in the Near East and Dr. Verne Fletcher, President of Haigazian College, will deal with a wide variety of issues related to the school and will deliberate on a number of important concerns arising from the ongoing crisis in Lebanon. The joint meeting will be followed by a special Dinner in honor of the Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Verne Fletcher. The Dinner, which is organized by the Haigazian College Alumni Association in cooperation with the Board of Trustees and Women's Auxiliary, will be held on Saturday, Sept. 8th, 1984, at the Westin Bonaventure, 404 South Figeroa Street; Los Angeles, CA.

On the East Coast, the Ladies' Auxiliary of New York/New Jersey hosted a Springtime Tea Party on April 12 at the home of Dr. and Mrs. John Keuhnelian of Tenafly, NJ. The Tea Party, which was attended by a very large group of supporters of Haigazian College, was a highly social and financial success. Chairman Louise Tezel of New York indicated that the Committee has decided to have other similar fund-raising activities in the future.

## **HALES RESUME MEDICAL MINISTRY IN NEPAL**

In a recent letter to their friends and supporters, Medical missionaries, Drs. Tom and Cynthia Hale, write: "It has been a joy to be in Nepal again and to renew acquaintances with old friends." With regard to their immediate and future plans, the Hales share the following:

"Our long-term assignment is to the government Gandaki Zonal Hospital (GZH) in Pokhara, a town in a large valley fifty kilometers west of Amp Pipal. At this stage in its contribution to meeting the health needs of Nepal, the United Mission to Nepal (UMN) is seeking to place more of its personnel within existing government programs and institutions. As GHZ should be the referral hospital for all other hospitals and health posts in that area, it has been considered strategic to post us there in order to help upgrade its services and to relieve the strain on Amp Pipal Hospital. We have your good wishes and prayers, and the Lord's promise that He will bless this new area of ministry into which He is sending us."

Your contributions for this unselfish service can be made through the channels of the AMAA.

## **ARMENIAN MEMORIAL CHURCH INAUGURATES PIPE ORGAN**

Congratulations to the Armenian Memorial Church of Watertown for the inauguration of the new Moller-Angerstein pipe organ in the Church Sanctuary. The service of dedication was held on May 20, 1984 during the Sunday Morning worship service. The occasion was also marked by an inaugural recital, the same day, in the evening, performed by Leonora McCroskey of North Texas State University.

May God bless the use of this magnificent instrument for His praise and glory and for the spiritual edification of the entire Memorial Church family.

## **BETHEL CHURCH STARTS RADIO MINISTRY**

Bethel Armenian Evangelical Church of San Francisco, Mr. James Kizirian, Pastor, has begun a 15-minute Armenian Christian Radio Program broadcast via KFAX in San Francisco on Saturdays from 12:15 to 13:30 pm. Congratulations to the Bethel Church and prayerful best wishes for a fruitful ministry of Broadcasting the Good News of Salvation.

## **SAO PAULO CHURCH RENOVATION COMPLETED WITH AMAA ASSISTANCE**



In response to a special appeal, the AMAA provided \$7,500 towards renovation of the sanctuary of the Armenian Evangelical church of Sao Paulo, Brazil. The above picture depicts the interior of the sanctuary of the Sao Paulo church, the renovation of which cost close to \$60,000 and was completed recently. The completion of the renovation was marked by a series of special services and evangelistic meetings during the months of May and June. The Pastor of the church, The Reverend Antonio Domonni informs that these services provided the entire church family with rare occasions of celebrations, edification and spiritual blessings.

## **BROUSA SCHOOL GIRLS' CLUB DISSOLVED BUT . . .**

Brousa School Girls' Club dissolved but it lives on and continues to help with the education of under-privileged children.

Why?

When the founding members of the ladies' compatriotic union were greatly reduced in numbers, the few that were still living had to make a choice between giving the money available for immediate use for a cause or establish a Fund to perpetuate the name of their Club and with its cherished purposes. The choice was for the establishing of the Brousa School Girls' Endowment Fund with the AMAA.

Each year since its establishment, and long after the death of the founders, the annual income of the Fund supports the tuition of four children in AMAA's Child Education Sponsorship Program.

Isn't that a great idea?

## **DR. HARRY T. SENECA RECEIVES THE KABAKJIAN AWARD**

Dr. Harry T. Seneca of New York was the recipient of Armenian Students Association's (ASA) Kabakjian Award this year at the Association's Annual Meeting in Providence, RI. The Kabakjian Award is presented to Americans of Armenian descent who have been outstanding in some field of science. Dr. Seneca was cited for his outstanding contribution in the area of infectious diseases.

Dr. Seneca received his medical degree Cum Laude from the American University, Beirut, Lebanon and his Masters of Science of Medicine and Pathology from Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana. Dr. Seneca has received national and scientific awards in the development of vaccines and in the treatment of infectious diseases. He has published over 250 articles on scientific and medical subjects and has authored several books in his field of expertise. Dr. Seneca's major and most recent scientific contributions have been in the area of infectious diseases. He is presently active in clinical medicine, specializing in infectious diseases in New Jersey.

The ASA could not have chosen a more qualified Armenian Scientist.

Hearty congratulations, Dr. Seneca, and best wishes for higher levels of excellence and achievements.

## **PERMANENT TRIBUNAL OF THE PEOPLE RECOGNIZE GENOCIDE**

The Rev. Vartan Hartunian, Chairman of the North American Support Group of the Permanent Tribunal of the People, recently was pleased to announce that the Tribunal, composed of 61 free, independent and knowledgeable individuals from over 30 countries, met and deliberated on April 15, formally recognizing the Armenian Genocide. Establishing this crime as historical fact, the verdict was arrived at by a 13-member panel and delivered on April 16 in the building of the French Senate.

In its 6-point Resolution, the Tribunal states that the Young Turk Government is guilty of this Genocide and that successive Turkish governments are also to be held responsible according to interna-

tional law. It also urges the United Nations and all nation-states to demand recognition of the Armenian Genocide.

The Rev. Hartunian, on behalf of the North American Support Group, expressed their gratitude to the Armenian communities of North America and South America that have helped make this achievement possible.

## **AMAA TREASURER APPEARS IN FRENCH PLAYS**

Mr. Edward Janjigian performed in two French comedies "Les Deux Rivaux" and "Le Petit Chien de la Veuve" on June 8 at Le Garage des Arts in Franklin Lakes, NJ. The shows were staged by French speaking Troupe of Players of the French Club of Franklin Lakes.



Edward Janjigian in a french play.

In plays of previous years, Mr. Janjigian portrayed the dashing Mr. Naquet in "Mademoiselle Ma Femme" and the Diligent Detective in "L'Anglais Tel Qu'on Le Parle."

The Exec. Dir., Dr. G.H. Chopourian of the AMAA, special guest of Mr. Janjigian, was very impressed by the fact that the chief participants acted as if they were professionals.

## **ARTIST FRIENDS OF THE AMAA AT MUSSAIR ARTS CENTER**

Lucy Janjigian of Franklin Lakes, NJ will be exhibiting some of her latest abstract paintings as part of a group exhibition at the Mussair Arts Center located at 623 Broadway, between Bleeker and Houston Streets in New York City.



Lucy Janjigian

The gallery will hold an open house for friends of the artists on Sept. 8, 1984, 2-5 pm. The show will be open to the public Sept. 8 to Sept. 26, 11 am through 5pm everyday except Sunday.

Lucy has exhibited her works in numerous galleries. In addition to having her paintings in private collections in the U.S.A., Europe, Japan, The Middle East and Canada, she has two commissioned murals at St. Leon's Church in Fair Lawn, New Jersey.

Sylvia Kutchukian of Loudonville, NY will perform on two evenings, October 4th and 25th at 8 pm at the Mussair Arts Center. Sylvia will sing operatic arias from the works of Mozart, Puccini and Verdi. Her accompanist, conductor Kurt



Sylvia Kutchukian

Saffir, will present operatic overtures at the piano. For Sylvia, this appearance will culminate a series of concerts throughout New York. Sylvia's performance will be preceded by a repertoire of Ballads by Yvette Savignon.

The entrance fee is \$15.00 which includes the concert, art exhibition and refreshments. Reservations may be made by calling the Mussair Arts Center at (212) 505-2297.



# OBITUARIES

**Sympathies extended:** — The Board of Directors, the Executive Director, the Field Directors and the staff, all of whom are acquainted with the deceased, their families and relatives through the AMAA records, extend their sincere and deep sympathies to the immediate kin, relatives and friends of the deceased, whose obituaries, transmitted to the Editor by pastors, friends or relatives, are recorded below.

"Let not your heart be troubled," said our Lord, "ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions . . . I go to prepare a place for you. . . I will come again, and receive you unto myself." (Jo. 14:1-3). This is the hope by which we should all live.

## HAROUTUNE BOYADJIAN



Haroutune Boyadjian with surviving wife, Mary.

Haroutune P. Boyadjian of Oakland, N.J., an author, educator, and recipient of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (M.B.E.), died on June 28, 1984.

Mr. Boyadjian lived in Palestine (later Israel) before coming to this country 24 years ago. While in Palestine, he attended St. George's School, an English Preparatory school, where he later became a teacher. He had come to the school in 1920 as a student on a scholarship after being rescued with some 4,000 other Armenians from Musa Dagh, which Franz Werfel, the Austrian author, immortalized in his book *The Forty Days of Musa Dagh*.

Mr. Boyadjian was appointed headmaster of St. George's in 1947, but the school was closed in 1948 when war broke out. He returned to the school as headmaster in 1949, and several years later was credited with restoring the school to its former prominence. For his work in education and his service to the British government through the school, he was awarded the civil Division M.B.E. in 1956 by Queen Elizabeth II.

He was the author of "Musa Dagh and My Personal Memoirs" (1982), an account of his years growing up near Antakya, Turkey, at the beginning of World War I and his years at St. George's. Musa Dagh mountain was a refuge for Armenians fleeing from the Turks. The survivors of the 1915 massacre were rescued and taken to a refugee camp in Egypt for the duration of World War I.

In 1960, Mr. Boyadjian came to the United States. For 14 years, he taught at the Fessenden School, Newton, Mass., where he also coached soccer. Mr. Boyadjian who attended Oxford University and graduated from Boston University, had a very active retirement since 1974.

Mr. Boyadjian was a member of St. Leon's Armenian Church, Fair Lawn; the Midland Park Senior Center, the Oakland Seniors, and the Wyckoff Masonic Lodge.

Mr. Boyadjian was trusted and respected by the Arab, Jewish and British Communities in Jerusalem. The London Times, The Jerusalem Post and other papers dedicated lengthy obituaries to him.

Surviving are his wife, Mary Karakashian Boyadjian; two daughters, Lucy Janjigian of Franklin Lakes, wife of AMAA Treasurer Edward Janjigian, and Anahid Thomas of Portchester, England; two sons, Haig of London and Peter of Oakland; a sister, Miriam Zobian in Lebanon; a brother, David of Sao Paulo, Brazil, and five grandchildren.

Funeral Services were held on July 2, at St. Leon's Armenian Church, with burial in George Washington Memorial Park, Paramus.

## BEATRICE DEMIRJIAN

Beatrice DeMirjian was born in Aintab on March 10, 1910. She was the youngest of sixteen children born to Adour and Doudou Boshoyan. She fled to Aleppo with members of her family in 1921 where she received her elementary education and grew up in a wholesome Christian community.

She was married to Kevork DeMirjian, the only son of Avedis DeMirjian of Aintab, in Aleppo, Syria, on November 11, 1929. That union was blessed with four children, 2 girls and 2 boys. Helen, Arsine, Krikor and Avedis.

Beatrice's faith in Christ was tested continuously during her early family life. But she never faltered. After the passing away of her beloved husband at the age of 53, on December 3, 1953, she moved her family to Beirut, Lebanon.

In 1962, she came to the United States to join her eldest son, Avedis (Harold), who had come to the States in 1950 to continue his education. The entire family was reunited in Los Angeles on April 1, 1963 and subsequently Helen, Arsine and Koko joined their mother and established their new residence in the city of the Angels.

During the next twenty years, Beatrice DeMirjian spent the most pleasant period of her entire life, enjoying the company of her family, relatives and new friends. She was happy, because for the first time in her life she could devote herself without worry of hunger or persecution, to servitude. She found joy in total dedication and commitment to serve her church, the Armenian Community, the Ararat



Beatrice DeMirjian

Old Age Home, the sick, those who had just arrived from overseas and, of course, the members of her family. She was happiest when she could help someone and for as long as God gave her health and the strength, she toiled for Him.

Beatrice also knew how to live. She enjoyed every moment set aside for fun with tremendous enthusiasm and gusto. She was truly an optimist, always cheerful and encouraging. Every life she touched, Beatrice influenced in an unforgettable manner.

About a year ago, Beatrice suffered a stroke and after gradual deterioration of her health, she quietly passed away in the arms of her sons and daughters on April 13, 1984. She is now in heaven united with all of her loved ones.

She leaves behind, in addition to her two daughters and two sons, four grandchildren, her sister Mrs. Mary Melidonian, a number of nieces and nephews and the entire DeMirjian family.

## HAGOP TOKATLIAN

There was something transcendent about the magnificent spirit of courage and kindness through which Hagop Tokatlian strengthened and inspired other human hearts. A long life marked by repeated adventure and daring peacefully came to an end on March 19, 1984. It is as if an age had come to a close taking with it first baitzar, his beloved wife, and then Hagop, the likes of whom we shall not see again.

Hagop Tokatlian was born in Adapazar in 1892 where he grew up and married Baitzar Mouradian in 1914. The young couple and their families miraculously and by exhibiting prodigious courage escaped the tragic wave of the genocide of the Armenians perpetrated by Ottoman Turkey in 1915. After an odyssey of eight years, Hagop was able to take his



Hagop Tokatlian

family to the island of Corfu in Greece where he spent thirteen years of very hard work but creative life. On Corfu, Hagop delved into several business activities; in fact, he had been such a versatile craftsman that he was nicknamed "Varbed", an asset he proved worthy of all his life. Hagop and his devoted wife were able to bring up their five children in a truly Christian home. In the Rev. Hovsep Djedizian's person whose church the family attended, Hagop saw the embodiment of truth and goodness, and whose sermons had left a lasting imprint on his soul and mind.

In 1934, Hagop relocated his family in Piraeus in search of better business prospects and wider educational horizons for his children. On coming to Piraeus he joined the Armenian Evangelical Church in Palea Kokkinia where the minister is still the Rev. Krikor Demirdjian. Hagop gave forty years of devoted service to his church, carrying out all of his duties with firmness, deliberation and largesse.

Hagop was an ardent believer in the Armenian Cause, and all his discussions with his friends and his personal conduct even as a youth reflected that profound sense of uncompromising patriotism. One of his life's dreams had been to visit Armenia, a trip which he was fortunate to have made with his daughter, Zarouhie, in the summer of 1980. With youthful zest and vigor, Hagop climbed every hill and dale, from Lake Sevan to Sardarabad, and let his eyes gaze at the majestic beauty of Ararat. This was a pilgrimage he had long dreamed of making with his beloved life companion, but fate would not have it.

Hagop and Baitzar were very fortunate to have made a trip to New York in the summer of 1965 to celebrate their fiftieth Wedding Anniversary at the home of their son Melik Tokatlian of Manhasset. In the summer of 1982, Hagop made another trip to New York on the happy occasion of the arrival of his first great grand-child born to Linda Tokatlian Appel.

At 92 Hagop had still a prodigious sense of courage and independence, and he still enjoyed the gift of good health and many blessings in life for which he gave thanks to God. Hagop also continued to be hospitable, a be-

quest left by his beloved wife. He was surrounded by loving children and grandchildren in his home, and he was cared for dearly by those afar. Hagop was affectionate with them all as they were with him. But of course, there was a void in his life left by the angel-like Baitzar who for sixty-six years had been a most loving and inspiring life companion, and to whose beautiful voice Hagop joined his in singing hymns and celebrations of life.

In lieu of flowers, Melik Tokatlian and his family donated to the AMAA.

## BERJOUHI K. SHERENE

Submitted by Norair Melidonian

Possibly at no time the Armenian Cilicia Congregational Church of Pasadena had such a great loss than when Berjouhi Sherene passed away on May 21, 1983. There wasn't a single office in the church that she had not held. She had been the president of the Ladies Aid, Clerk of the Church and Vice President of the Church Council.



Berjouhi K. Sherene

Berjouhi was so much involved in the life of the church that when the pastor would not be around, the members of the church would instinctively turn to her for help and guidance. Although one year has passed after her death, she is still remembered and will continue to be remembered for many years to come.

Berjouhi (nee Kamber) was born on Dec. 18, 1908 in Marsovan, Turkey. She came to the United States when she was thirteen years old (1921) with her mother, sister Lucy, brother James and grandmother. Her father was one of the victims of the Turkish massacre. After living in the city of New York for four years, she moved to Detroit with her family. In Detroit she married Lemuel Sherene.

In 1946 the family moved to Pasadena, California, and both Lemuel and Berjouhi devoted their lives to the service of Christ through the Cilicia Church. The church would not be what it is without their dedication and love.

Berjouhi was a devoted Christian. She believed in the power of prayer. When she was hospitalized she always wanted me to pray for her. She never complained during her illness.

She believed that she is in God's hands. Berjouhi was a real inspiration for me.

Her memorial services took place in Pasadena. Many people had come from far and near to pay their respect to the memory of a wonderful person. She is survived by her husband Lemuel, daughter Betty Joyce, two grandchildren Bonnie and Derek and a brother James.

May the good Lord comfort our dear bereaved friends.

## ELMAS H. BEDROSIAN

Elmas "Alice" H. Bedrosian, 74, of Providence, RI, passed away on June 30, 1984.

Born in Husenig, Armenia, Elmas was a daughter of the late Hagop and Altoon (Noorigian) Nakshian and came to this country in 1923, settling in Providence and moving to Cranston in 1971.

Mrs. Bedrosian was a life member of the Armenian Congregational Church of Providence and a member of the Cranston Senior Citizens Association. She had celebrated her 50th wedding anniversary in 1978.

Besides her husband she leaves two daughters, Gloria Casparyan of Cranston and Anne Kayarian of Warwick; a sister, Bertha Ketchian of Belmont, Mass.; a brother, Dr. Jacob S. Nakshian of Attleboro, Mass.; and four grandchildren.

**The AMAA Board of Directors extend their heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased through the medium of the AMAA NEWS.**

\***Mr. John Abidian**  
Arlington, MA

**Mrs. Mabel Magarian**  
Vallejo, CA

**Mr. Nishan Melkonian**  
St. Laurent, Canada

**Mr. Hovannes Nalbandian**  
Beirut, Lebanon

**Mr. Aram D. Johnson**  
Fresno, CA      March 29, 1984

**Mrs. Beatrice DeMirjian**  
N. Hollywood, CA April 13, 1984

**Miss Agnes Mooradkhanian**  
N. Andover, MA April 27, 1984

**\*Mr. Haig Moomjian**  
Alhambra, CA      June 10, 1984

**Mr. Karl Luke Emerzian**  
Fresno, CA      June 19, 1984

**\*Mr. Harry Boyadjian**  
Oakland, NJ      June 28, 1984

**\*Mrs. Elmas H. Bedrosian**  
Providence, RI      June 30, 1984

**\*Mrs. Haiganoush Serrajian**  
Southfield, MI      July 5, 1984

**Mr. Warren Gagosian**  
W. Medford, MA      July 15, 1984

**\*Dr. Vahé S. Roubian**  
Manhasset, NY      July 20, 1984

**\*Memorials were designated for AMAA.**

# THE SIXTY-FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMAA

The Sixty-Fifth Annual Meeting of the Armenian Missionary Association of America, Inc. will be held on Sunday, October 21, 1984 at 1:30 p.m. at the AMAA/Armenian Presbyterian Church Complex, 140 Forest Avenue, Paramus, New Jersey.

All members of the Association are urged to attend the Meeting to:

- Hear and approve reports of the AMAA Officers, Committees, Chapters and Affiliated Boards;
- Review and approve the financial reports;
- Consider and confirm the budget for the new fiscal year 1984-1985;
- Elect six Board members to replace outgoing officers;
- Elect four members to the Nominating Committee;
- Elect an Auditor;
- Consider and act upon any other business that may legitimately come before the membership.

All members and friends are also cordially invited to the following functions to mark the 65th Annual Meeting:

## THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 19, 1984

• **Ministers' Seminar Retreat:** For active ministers of churches of the Armenian Evangelical Union.

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, 6:30 p.m.

• **Annual Meeting Gala Banquet:** The Sheraton Heights, 630 Terrace Ave., Hasbrouck Heights, N.J. Hors d'oeuvres at 6:30 and Dinner at 7:30. Master of Ceremonies: Hrant Agbabian of Los Angeles; Keynote Speaker: District Attorney Robert H. Philibosian; Special Music by young artists, Pianist John Haroutunian of Newtonville, Mass. and Violinist Grace Shiragian of Providence, R.I.

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20

- **Meeting of the Board of Directors:** 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Open to Pastors as well as Delegates of Chapters.
- **Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Stephen Philibosian Foundation:** 3:00 to 5:30 p.m.

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21

- **Annual Meeting Worship Service:** 11:00 a.m. Armenian Presbyterian Church, 140 Forest Ave., Paramus, N.J.
- **Luncheon:** 12:30 p.m. The Hekemian Fellowship Hall of the Armenian Presbyterian Church.
- **The 65th Annual Meeting of the AMAA:** 1:30 p.m. The Armenian Presbyterian Church Sanctuary.
- **Meeting of the AMAA Board of Directors:** 4:30 p.m. The AMAA Headquarters.

The AMAA President, Dr. George Bezirganian and the Board of Directors look forward with great anticipation to the presence and participation of all ministers and members of churches, representatives of AMAA Chapters and Missions Committees as well as AMAA members and friends.

For further information on the 65th Annual Meeting and all the related activities including reservations for the Gala Banquet, please call or write to:

Armenian Missionary Association of America  
140 Forest Avenue  
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(201) 265-2607, 265-2608

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